



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 5293

LCO No. 1354



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

AN ACT CONCERNING STOLEN VALOR.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 53-378 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

3 (a) Any person [, other than an officer or enlisted man or woman of
4 the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or any reserve
5 component thereof, or of the state, as defined in section 27-2, or a
6 member of a school or college military or naval organization,
7 organized, uniformed and drilling as such, or a resident of any
8 veterans' or soldiers' home, or a police officer,] who, with the intent to
9 fraudulently obtain money, property or other tangible benefit, at any
10 time, wears the uniform, or any part of the uniform, of any of [said] the
11 armed forces, reserve components or organizations listed below in this
12 subsection, within the state, shall be fined not less than five hundred
13 dollars or more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more
14 than six months, or both. [, provided nothing] The provisions of this
15 subsection shall not apply to (1) an officer or enlisted man or woman
16 of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or any reserve
17 component thereof, or of the state, as defined in section 27-2, (2) a

18 member of a school or college military or naval organization,
 19 organized, uniformed and drilling as such, (3) a resident of any
 20 veterans' or soldiers' home, or (4) a police officer. Nothing in this
 21 [section] subsection shall be construed as prohibiting any person
 22 having been honorably discharged from any of said armed forces,
 23 reserve components or organizations from wearing the person's
 24 uniform in accordance with the laws of the United States or the state
 25 and the regulations governing any of said armed forces, reserve
 26 components or organizations, or any person taking part in any play,
 27 opera, theater or other entertainment from wearing such uniform
 28 while actually engaged in such entertainment.

29 (b) Any person who, with the intent to obtain money, property or
 30 other tangible benefit, falsely represents himself or herself, orally or in
 31 writing, to have been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by
 32 the United States Congress for the armed forces, as defined in section
 33 27-103, or any of the service medals or badges awarded to the
 34 members of such armed forces, or the ribbon, button or rosette of any
 35 such decoration, medal or badge, or any colorable imitation thereof,
 36 shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars or more than one
 37 thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2014	53-378

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Statement of Purpose:

To address the constitutional issue raised in U.S. v. Alvarez, 132 S.Ct. 2537 (2012), by requiring that only those misrepresentations made by wearing uniforms or medals for the purpose of fraudulently obtaining something of value are subject to the criminal penalties in the statute.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]